

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a client-server-document repository system, a secure method, comprising:

5 sending, from the client to the server, user credentials to release a document, a delegation credential for permitting the server to perform an action on the document and the address of the document;

verifying, at the server, the user's credentials and the delegation credential;

10 sending, from the server to the document repository, server credentials, the delegation credential and the address of the document;

verifying, at the document repository, the server's credentials and the delegation credential;

providing the document to the server; and

performing the action on the document.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the server comprises a printer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the server comprises a multi-function device for printing, faxing and scanning.

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4. The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a secure connection between the client and server prior to sending the user credentials, delegation credential and location of the document.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the document location comprises a URL.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential comprises a certificate signed by the client and including the delegator, delegatee, URL of the document to be fetched, URL of the server, access rights and constraints delegated to the 30 server.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the client comprises a mobile device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the mobile device comprises a PDA.

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9. The method of claim 7, wherein the mobile device comprises a cell phone.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential includes a time limit, wherein upon expiration of the time limit, the server's permissions expire.

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11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending, from the client to the server, a delegation credential for authorizing payment for the action to be performed by the server;

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sending, from the server to a payment provider, server credentials and the payment delegation credential;

verifying, at the payment provider, the server's credentials and the payment delegation credential, and if valid directing payment to the server.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential comprises a Satchel token.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential comprises an SPKI certificate.

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14. The method of claim 1, wherein the server comprises a printer and the action comprises printing the document and wherein the verifying step comprises verifying if the client has rights on the printer and if not sending an error message to the client.

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15. The method of claim 14, further comprising verifying, at the printer, if sufficient media is available.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising, upon printing the document, sending the client a notice.

5 17. The method of claim 3, wherein the delegation credential includes the client's access rights associated with the document and constraints on the server.

10 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the client's access rights include printing, faxing, copying and fetching and wherein the server's constraints include a predetermined number of copies that may be made and a predetermined period of time in which actions on the document may be provided.

15 19. In a client-server-document repository system, a secure method, comprising:

sending, from the client to the server, user credentials to release a plurality of documents and a plurality of delegation credentials, wherein each delegation credential includes permissions for the server to perform an action on a document and the address of the document;

for each delegation credential,

20 verifying, at the server, the user's credentials and the delegation credential;

sending, from the server to the document repository, server credentials, the delegation credential and the address of the document;

verifying, at the document repository, the server's credentials and the delegation credential;

25 providing the document to the server; and

performing the action on the document.